# HAMATEUR CHATTER

**The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.**

*The World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club*

JUNE 1974 NUMBER 41


## GREETINGS FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

Thanks, fellows! I appreciate your confidence and will try to do as well as W9ATK. K9WRU? Who is he? I've never worked him. Since this is true for most of you, a few words of introduction are in order. I'm a Technician, First Phone and Life Member of the League. You may find me on two meter teletype but an encounter anywhere else on the air is doubtful. My principal interest is building....almost anything. Much to the XYL's chagrin, there are usually twenty to thirty unfinished projects at any moment. Professionally, I'm a maker of breadbags. So much for me, now, the club. Certainly, things are electronically changing and this must be the most exciting time ever for our hobby. Remember how painful the change to SSB was? We all know a few diehard AMers yet! But change we must. Who hasn't heard about the "component shortages," yet five years ago few could even consider projects we builders now think routine. Shortages? No, I think change. How about the inductors that aren't coils of wire? In the middle of this, where does MRAC fit? Is there something wrong with the programs? Should we be more active during special events? Is the purpose of the Club satisfied by providing an eyeball QSO forum? How about the average club member? Is he too young or too old or maybe "just right". Are you proud to bring visitors to our meetings? Think about it. 73.

Lee Mushel, K9WRU

## AREC AND EMERGENCY

Roy Pederson K9FHI new SCM and Sherm Carr SEC presented the Milwaukee County Emergency Coordinator Certificate to Dave Knaus WA9POV at the May 7th meeting. Dave replaces Bob Goldstein K9KJT who resigned after 11 years of FB service.

W9NGT and K9FHI went to the Oshkosh tornado site to observe for the Wx Bureau. The local Red Cross was called to help with communication during the clean-up after the tornado damage at Lomira. Those answering the call from this area were WB9MFC, W9YYW, WA9KRF, W9PAS and WA9AWJ and some of his Explorer Scouts. This was a call-up on a days notice.

Communications for the Environmental Education Bike Ride was supplied April 24th. The north route contacts were FB but the south side had some difficulty. The turnout of riders was very disappointing but the ham-gang good. Northside crew consisted of WA9JOV, W9CTI, WB9EQX and WA9MLY. Southside was manned by WB9MFC, W9RLO, WB9BWP WB9HCO with WA9MME heading the whole operation.

RTTY and radio gear at the WX Bureau is being moved to a more convenient room as part of the remodeling plans. The room will be for AREC and NAVMARS use only. Roy WA9KEC is the New Ass't E.C. for WX Bureau operation.

## FROM HOBBY TO HOBBY BY CHET SAKURA W9CTI

This is the story of one ordinary ham. The title really should be "FROM HOBBY TO AVOCATION TO VOCATION TO AVOCATION TO HOBBY AGAIN!" The justification for this article was crystalized while riding with WA9MLY and discussing the idea of writing about a ham's life and activity. Ralph paraphrased Abe Lincoln's famous saying, "God must have love the common Ham because he made so many of us!" This writer certainly can claim to be a common ham because he claims no engineering degree or accomplishments--no certificates for DXCC, WAC, WAZ or even WAS adorn the wall.

Like many hams, mine started at an early age while in the 8th grade just after WWI, (1919), in Seattle, Washington. My pal, Al Kuballo, was the typical enthusiastic wireless bug who just couldn't wait until the hambands were open again and he got me started. With a borrowed magazine and Al to guide, I got the Quaker Oat box, a roll of #24 enamel wire, a galena crystal with cat whisker, a mica bipass condenser, some Fahenstock clips, a pair of 2000 ohm Brandes phones and bread-boarded the first of many rigs or projects. The aerial was 100" of 7-strand #22 wire tied to a light pole and the receiver properly grounded to a water pipe, according to the specs.

As this period (in time) was just before broadcasting was started, the only stations heard on the air were spark code stations. The first station heard was the Seattle harbor station KPE with its rotary spark which I could almost read because I had learnt the code as a Boy Scout. At first, all the listening was on the 600 meter marine "band", and I was thrilled once copying a fragment of a code message "....did you hear the distress signal...". When hams were allowed back on the air a short time later, 7BK was about the only other signal (spark of course) on the air besides the commercials. Howard Mason eventually made a name for himself as an operator to the South Pole and a Tech Editor for QST. (He was recently mentioned in the Dec' 72 50-year ago column) I might make mention of the attempt at bootlegging with a Ford spark coil, without success tho. Unfortunately I had no "A1" to guide me further as I never saw him again after grade school. (A1, whereever you are, I want to thank you for starting me on this wonderful HOBBY!)

Soon broadcasting started (1920) and BCLing was the fad and DX on crystal (solid state--no batteries!) was written up in magazines. My best DX was CFCN Calgary, the "Prairie Farm Station" and KPO San Francisco, "Hale Bros. Department Store". In the mean time, I discovered

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
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BOARD MEMBERS: Jack McCleland, W9ATK (Chairman); Dave Knaus, WA9POV; Dick Oberholtzer, W9ZPV; Ralph Parker, WA9MLY; Gordon Weiler, W9ZQK; Ray Truemner, W9ITD, Chester Sakura, W9CTI.

Radio News andQST magazines and became an avid reader of radio magazines which became my electronic education, for the next 50 years. During high school, the UV200 and 201 appeared on the market and the receiver designs were revolutionized and made more powerful. These were beyond reach because of the price ($7.50 or more) and the need for a storage battery and charger to operate these tubes. CW now became popular with the hams because of the availability of tubes and began the CW vs Spark struggle which didn't last long because spark was outlawed by 1930. When the peanut tube UV 199 appeared (about 1922 also about this time the type 30 and WD11 tubes appeared), and it became very popular with the builders because it only required 2 drycells and one "B" battery to operate. The vacuum tubes started the next series of bread board projects--one-tube blooper, two-tube RF and regenerative detector and finally a three-tuber by adding a stage of audio--before I became a ham some years later. Short -wave was gathering momentum at this time and there were many thrills of SWLing distant stations both hams and BC. In 1924, while still in high school, I went in front of the RI (Radio Inspector, and I even remember his name, Redfern) and took my exam....and flunked! This is the story of many common hams. This "era" came to an abrupt end one night when the 45 v. "B" battery accidently shorted across the "A" terminals and burnt out my three UV 199's. Thus ended Phase I, not to be picked up again for almost ten years because of graduation, working and other interests.....girls mebbe?

In 1932 I was married go reinterested in Ham Radio and received in 1933 my first ticket--W7DLN. I was lucky enough to buy a used juke box power supply for $4 which supplied about 350 volts and that was to run my transmitter for many years. The first was a TNT (untuned grid) PP 45's. This was used for a while and the same breadboard was used with a pair of 46's driven by a 24A ECO (electron-coupled oscillator) and 24A buffer. I used this combination because the 46's were zero-biased and the 24A's were screen grid tubes and didn't need neutralizing. I never did understand neutralizing fully. (Present plans are to recreate this rig. W9NZF has given me coils and 46 tubes). When the 6L6 tubes became more available (on the used market, natch!) these were used. Finally a start was made to really make a humdinger taken from QST--sub base and panel with a pair of 807's in the final with band-switching, because up to now it was plug in coils, as were the receivers. This project was never finished because of the war. The receiver finally evolved to almost a Sniggle Sniggle Regenerative I.F. 4-tube Super Heterodyne. This phase ended with WWII.

Even before I had progressed too far in ham radio, I found that it was going to be hard to finance, as it was in the middle of the depression So with my limited knowledge of radio I started on my AVOCATION of "fixing" radios, intending to earn extra money for my hobby. I well remember the first job, restringing a dial cable on an old Majestic Radio. It took me 3½ hours and I received 50¢! I found that I was fixing more and more radios and hamming less and less, the plan was to finance it. I worked in a sawmill in a small town so didn't have the benefits of clubs and other fellows to help. Little did I know then that the practical radio and hamming that I learnt would come in handy during the war in the service and afterwards in the service repair business which became my VOCATION.

After the war I found little time or opportunity to pursue ham radio. For one thing a family of four boys had to be fed and it was a perpetual study trying to keep abreast of the advancement of the art. (I never did catch up so don't ask me about transistors, IC's color and all those common things now, at least in detail!) I had my own TV repair business for 15 years and because of health, had to drop that and go to work for another shop (punching a clock isn't so bad, fellows!).

Later, with the kids away from home, in college, Service etc., I found time to think about my "first love". Also retirement was looming ahead and I had to plan for that too. So with a borrowed HQ100 and a used Viking II, I started in again, (about 1965) after 25 years of very little activity. I had kept my license valid by a minimum of operating. It was like Rip Van Winkle awakening from his sleep. CW was about th same except there were novices now but the phone band surely had changed--no AM, instead now SSB, transceiving, many nets, roundtables complete with VOX and 2-meter FM like intercom, moonbounce Oscar I Satellite, and with RTTY and ATV.

Now I have completed the circle, the second AVOCATION combining with the HOBBY because a few people insist on bringing me their broken TVs and radios. I am enjoying most of the new activities to the hilt--even editing a club paper. So now I can say I have travelled the GREAT CIRCL ROUTE and it's been great!

L'envoi

As I've been over the rough road of learning, starting from scratch, I marvel at the sophisticated knowledge that the younger fellows have. I feel the advancement of the art is not in the heads of the older (and wiser?) but in the hands of the contemporary.

M.R.A.C. MEETING REPORTS

Recent meetings slated by Program Chairman V.P K9DD have been very interesting and enlightening. March meeting was featured by a representative of the Electric Co., Al Malkasian, who is the General Superintendent of Systems, Electric Operation. He described the power setup of this country and Canada with its complexities of tie-ins, borrowing, buying and selling juice, blackouts and especially the maintenance of the 60-cycle frequency.

The April meeting featured one of our own, Sus Musashi WB9BGJ, on his recent trip to JA-land He mainly dwelled on hams and ham operation there and showed pictures of hams he had met, some on the air. His explanation of the band allocation and licensing structure was very interesting.

The May meeting, in conjunction with the annual election was a presenta-tion of ICs and their uses by Milt Krauthoff, W9BTQ. The sophistication of the present ICs are amazing to say the lease. The obsolete ones were (and are) complicated too!

## QCWA WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Net controllers to the end of the year are:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July | 7 W9NJH | Sept. | 1 W9NJH | Nov. | 3 W9NJH |
| | 14 W9DXV | | 8 W9DVD | | 10 W9CAS |
| | 21 W9VQD | | 15 W9YFW | | 17 W9WZS |
| | 28 W9FPA | | 22 W9EJD | | 24 W9EIZ |
| Aug. | 4 W9NJH | | 29 W9OUT | Dec. | 1 W9NJH |
| | 11 W9PD | Oct. | 6 W9NJH | | 8 W9SQJ |
| | 18 W9EDS | | 13 W9CTI | | 15 W9CUA |
| | 25 W9EWC | | 20 W9ESJ | | 22 W9FTY |
| | | | 22 W9AQZ | | 29 W9FY |

Members attending the QCWA dinner at Dayton Hamvention included W9FY, W9IZO, W9LJU, W9VQD, W9TQ and K4HZH (ex-W9SZH). We had a surprise visitor check into the Sunday Net from W9CTI's shack--W5EJ, Ted Heithecker the Editor of the QCWA NEWS. He noted the lush green of Wisconsin and mind you, the "beautiful" yellow of the dandelions!

The dinner-meeting June 1st at Sarre's in Oshkosh was attended by 39 hams and 23 XYL's. A fine dinner of chicken and ham was provided and of course the eyeballing was most most enjoyable--before, during and after. W9GSP "proved" his 50-year activity by showing his "Flewelling Trophy for the Outstanding Amateur Station of 1924" and the picture of his station. He also related interesting meetings with hams in foreign lands. The gals were treated to a tour of the Lennox Candle Factory where they "saved" us money by buying lots of candles wholesale. The gals also had a prize drawing. Thanks to W9ELY and XYL Marge for chairing this event. W9DXV has been in and out of the hospital due to his accident last year. WB9BOT suffered a heart attack and now has a new pacer installed internally. Next meeting is slated for Oct. 5th in the Madison-Lake Delton Area with W9EJD in charge of details. W9CTI Sec.

## HAMS INVOLVED IN EMERGENCY AID

As in all emergency cases, the involvement can be other than P.I. (personal injuries). Our gal Marilyn WB9MFC stopped at an accident site at Beloit and 100th to offer aid, altho the F.D. emergency squad was already there. She announced to one of the principals that she was a ham operator and asked if she could be of help. He turned out to be W9FJE who asked if she could help in locating his son. A call of "BREAK" over 31/91 repeater stopped the QSO, a standoy effected and landline efforts were made to locate him. WA9SFH, W9ULA, K9UOE, WA9RTH and WB9AJP were among those aiding. In the meantime, W9FJE asked Marilyn to go to his home and turn off their kitchen stove, as they intended to be gone only a short time. With a neighbor, Marilyn entered the house and found a protective dog (a dachsund, he forgot to tell her about) who eventually allowed the stove to be turned off. Another facet was that the injured parties were taken to St. Luke's Hospital where they were received by Jeff WB9AJP who was on duty in the emergency room. After helping with X-rays, he reported back that they were OK, which were relayed to the concerned neighbor thru Marilyn. 'Twas a fine piece of public service, fellows! (Marilyn certainly can be considered one of the gang, Hi!). (Reported with more details by WB9MFC)

## MEMORIAL FOR RAY THOMPSON W9IRZ

The family of Ray Thompson, who became a Silent Key Feb. 13th, donated a file of 20 years of QSTs to the Club. It was understood that they were to be sold and the amount given to the Club as a memorial to Ray, who was a Life Member. At a recent meeting it was auctioned for $15. Thanks. There is also a tri-band Mini-beam, two telescoping masts and an 80 meter dipole with leadin to be sold for the family. See Travis, W9VQD.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

For the last time, the Editor will occupy this corner as he has more or less for the last five years and 27 issues. It is with no little regret to leave this post and can honestly be said that it's been an interesting one. Altho the intended move to Seattle will probably not take place till fall, this issue will definitely be the last one.

The Editor has found it a very interesting task. Research and old files show that "Newsletters" were sent to the GI's during WWII and later continued as "Hamateur Chatter" under editors W9ONY, W9ROM and W9GPI. A complete file is found in the Public Library. With many ham activities in this area, there is need for continued reporting. So this Editor makes one last appeal for someone to pick up the challenge to continue, especially while the mechanics of production is still organized. 73 and hope to always CU, on the air at least.

Chet Sakura, W9CTI

## W9ZPV "RETIRES" TO WORK

Dick Oberholtzer decided not to "retire" so he purchases a small appliance repair shop in Hales Corner. He will run it with his XYL Ruth and is called "R & R Fix-it Shoppe".

## SUNSHINE

W9CRG has moved from Doctor's Hospital Nursing Home to Ascot Nursing Centre, 2115 E. Woodstock Pl. Bernie would like to see his old friends and hope to be his TR3 back on the air.

Due to ill health, W9WVL is selling his station consisting of T4X and R4B.

## CQ3TUE REPORTED BY W9DVD

No matter how you slice it, a ham is still a ham! That's what you find when you get together for an "eyeball QSO" session such as offered by CQ3TUE, the 3rd Tuesday of the month noon luncheon at the Northside Svedenhouse in Milwaukee.

Started in January 1973, the luncheon attendance has been averaging 30. The May turnout however, blew to 45. There were some real QT's there--three who were presidents of the MRAC during the 1920's: W9NY 1922, W9AFZ (W6GKQ) in 1927 and ex-9HO/W9ESF in 1928. Not only that, but there were others in attendance with at least 50 years as hams: W9CCD, W9CM, W9CYO, K9DD, W9DFJ, W9DII, W9DVD, W9EQ and W9FY. The idea of "eyeball QSO" breakfast or luncheon meetings is recommended right, left and sideways in any city in the country.

## W9CCD RECEIVES 50-YEAR HONORS

Herb Parish W9CCD has been cited for being an ARRL member for 50 years. He recently received a 50 year pin and a plaque with a letter of commendation from ARRL headquarters. The plaque will adorn the wall with his QCWA 50-year certificate, along side of his Scottish Rites and Shriner honors. Herb got his license in 1922 but "started" in 1918 like many others (ssssh! bootlegging with spark). Congrats Herb.

THANKS TO TED WILLETT, W9NHE AND JOHN FILO OF "INSTANT OFFSET" FOR THEIR COOPERATION ALL THESE YEARS. Signed, Ye Ed.

## SHERM CARR RESIGNS

At the Yellow Thunder Hamfest, it was announced that Sherm Carr, W9NGT was resigning as SEC after eight years of service in that capacity. The new SEC will be Jim Romelfanger K9PKQ of Baraboo who has been EC of Portage County. Thanks for good job done Sherm, and good luck to you Jim! Sherm will continue with the WX bureau project as a super assistant EC.

## ON-THE-AIR ACTIVITIES

W9FY sends in additional stations that check in the "Interstate Milwaukee Net". Add: K4EZD ex-W9WHX, W7JVF ex-W9RYX with W9ESJ on the Milwaukee end. Also correct K4PQ to K4PG-- how could an error like that happen--Kissing 4 Pretty Girls!

Dorothy K9BBL and Marilyn WB9MFC compliments the Geritol Net on .67 by checking in.

## CONSTRUCTION

WB9GGI is looking for vacuum variable capacitators for a 2 KW linear to go with the pair of 3-500Zs.

W9TQ fabricated hardware for mounting the 2-meter antenna for W9CUJ at Friendship Village with W9CTI assisting (painting masts). Mac should be on the air with a good signal by the time this issue comes out.

WB9FUH made a keyer designed after WA9KRF's presentation last fall. He brought it to the meeting and it looks and sounds good.

## ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION ITEMS

(Squeezed out last month) W9TQ is busy on a bridge/power indicator and matchbox units for HF operation. W9NZF is building a KW linear.

K9HGJ has a new half gallon Collins station in operation. Sounds good on the Lakeshore Net.

WA9MME, W9VZZ, W9PAS, W9HAD, W900W, W9VQD and WA9YTH are building solid state modular receivers designed by VHF Engineering. WA9MME has the necessary boards.

## CHATTER

WB9GGI is working with 6 budding novices at Longfellow Junior Hi School. There's a need for equipment and any donation will be accepted. Contact Jim on WSBN or 771-8569.

W9GF and XYL went to Texas to see their grandson graduate from college and the following day, get married. His son-in-law flew in from Alaska (in his own plane) and they flew down and back with him. Carl and Vivian will be in KL7-land for the summer. He'll take his Signal One with him so listen for him on the Alaskan Net on 14,292.

Herb Reinke W9ESO is reported a Silent Key.

WB9MLK and XYL are going to retire to Treasure Island on the Gulf of Mexico at the end of July.

About 20 O.T.'s gathered at the John Ernst Cafe to fellowship with Doc Wyman W4HXZ (ex-W9SZH) when he visited here on May 2nd. Another group got together for K9PG when Lynn visited here on May 14th with about 15 present.

## CLUB NEWS

SOUTH MILWAUKEE RADIO CLUB will hold their annual SWAPFEST AND ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET Saturday July 13th. Admission $1.00, food available, prizes and "HAPPY HOUR". Come and have a good time! Location the same as last year--American Legion Post Park, 9327 Shepard Ave. That is about 1¾ miles East of I-94 on highway 100 (Ryan Road), ½ mile north on Shepard Ave. BUY-SELL or SWAP!! You-all come! 7:00 AM till ???

OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB Plans for Field Day is being formulated as usual this time of the year. Hal WB0HAI will be on hand to lend support as he has done since the first one. Hal still holds W9RXJ. A novice class is planned beyond the 7-week orientation class given at the Rangeline School headed by Ed Rosenthal WA9WNG. WB9GVH presented a FB lecture on SSB at the last meeting Work is progressing on improving the receiving on the repeater.

WEST ALLIS RADIO CLUB is back on their old meeting schedule--2nd and 4th Tuesdays. A novice class is being started and conducted by George K9ILV. George is a dedicated teacher and points with pride when one of his pupils make the General Class. He feels especially proud of Marilyn WB9MFC (secretary of WARAC) who passed her general recently. Mobile hunts have returned to the biweekly schedule on Fridays on the meetingless weeks. The freq is 29.6 on FM. With the building fund growing, a building committee has been formed to guide the club in the use of that fund All efforts are pointed at FD under Charley Craven. W.A. placed 2nd in 9-land in their category last year and have been successful contenders other years, winning over their northern rival.

K9ILV is managing "Aladdin's Castle Amusement Parlors in Southridge .

YELLOW THUNDER RADIO CLUB held their 4th annual Hamfest May 18th at the Dellview Hotel at Lake Delton. The banquet count was about 160 so the total attendance was considerably more. Interesting meetings were held including ARPSC, Repeater forum and two MARS groups. After a splendiferous buffet dinner, the program was MC' by Jim Romelfanger K9PKQ secretary, editor, et a of the Club. The entertainment was as "hammy" as could be with pros John W9MMP and Clyde W9HSY The editor of Hama' Chatter was signally honored with a banjo solo dedicated to him by John, "Japa ese Sandman" in Eddie Peabody style.

CHATTER
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